

HJR 45 -- VETERANS LOTTERY TICKET

SPONSOR: Solon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 12 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment requires the State Lottery Commission to develop and begin selling a "Veterans Lottery Ticket" by July 1, 2013. All net proceeds received from the sale of these tickets must be deposited solely into the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 or More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2013, \$0 in FY 2014, and \$0 in FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund has nearly been depleted. It is believed that by the end of 2013 the Veterans Commission will have to start closing veteran homes due to lack of funds. A veterans lottery ticket is not a total solution for the problem, but it will help. The Veterans Service Officer Program is also affected by the lack of moneys in the trust fund. The program brings in millions of dollars from the federal Veterans Administration through matching funds, and the trust fund is vital to the Veterans Service Officer Program. It is critical to keep the trust fund solvent in order to keep the homes and programs operating.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Solon; Missouri Veterans Commission; Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; Rich Higert, American Legion, Department of Missouri; and Jesse Jones, Missouri Association of Veterans Associations.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.